Pemaco Superfund Site Update

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region IX • San Francisco

Maywood, CA *January 2006*

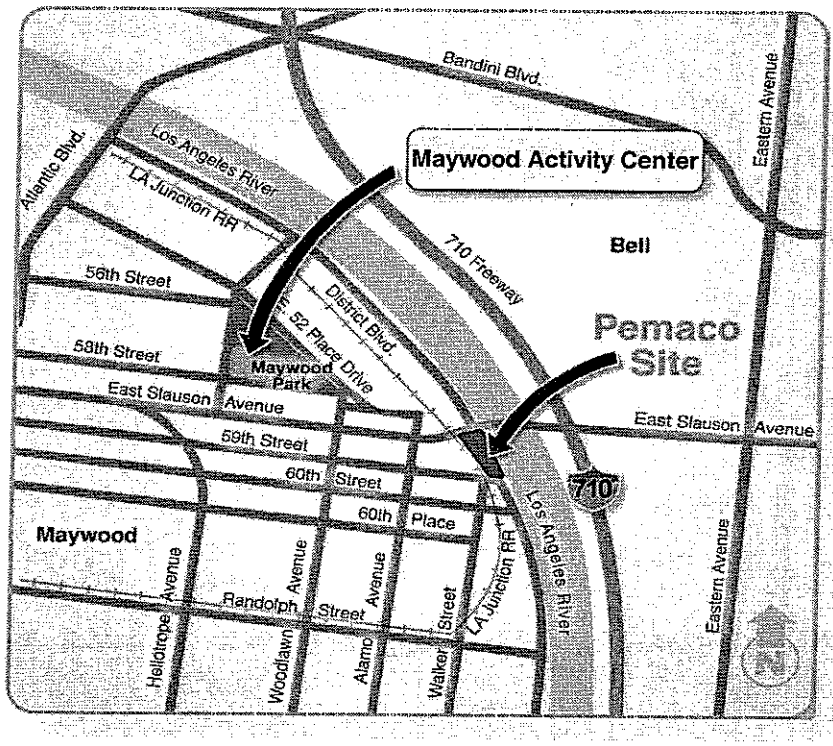
This fact sheet was prepared by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to update the community on the progress made at the Pemaco Superfund site located at 5050 E. Slauson Blvd. in Maywood, CA (see map).

Brief History of Pemaco and Recent Events

The Pemaco Superfund Site is a former chemical blending facility that was contaminated during past industrial practices. U.S. EPA has studied the extent of the contamination at Pemaco, and in March 2004 released the Pemaco Proposed Plan to the community describing the results of the studies and suggesting a way to clean up the contamination. In April and May 2004, EPA held two community meetings to share the findings and cleanup suggestions and to hear from the community. When community members expressed concerns about the proposed cleanup systems, EPA had additional meetings to discuss these concerns. After several meetings, EPA chose the Agency's preferred cleanup option with additional safety measures to address community concerns. A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed January 13, 2005 making the cleanup decision formal. EPA held another community meeting in July 2005 to update the community and began working on the cleanup in August 2005. If you would like additional information or a copy of the Proposed Plan or ROD, please visit the Maywood Cesar Chavez Public Library or contact U.S. EPA at the numbers listed in the back of this fact sheet.

Updates

During the City of Maywood's grading and infrastructure construction of Maywood Riverfront Park, EPA began its own work at the neighboring Pemaco property, which included trenching and installing approximately 3,500 feet of pipelines and 55 new extraction wells as part of the groundwater and soil treatment system. Parts of this treatment system extend off-site to 60th Place. Additional testing of soil and groundwater was performed to help with the design of the Electrical Resistance Heating (ERH) treatment system design. As you may remember from previous meetings, the source area with the highest levels of contamination will be treated using ERH to heat up and capture volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are found below ground. The installation of the ERH system is anticipated to begin in February 2006. The system is expected to begin operating in August or September 2006 and remain in operation for approximately one year.



Location of Pemaco Superfund Site

During construction and operation of the ERH system, public access to this area of the future park will be restricted. A building will be constructed to house the groundwater and soil treatment systems. During operation of the cleanup systems, the public will have access to the rest of the Maywood Riverfront Park but not to the building housing the treatment systems.

Current Schedule of Activities

Current schedule of activities for installation and startup of the remedial action (RA) at the Pemaco site:

- Community meeting – January 11, 2006
- Complete Remedial Action (RA)/ERH design - January/February
- Treatment System building construction – March
- ERH system installation start – March/April
- City of Maywood scheduled to finish completion of Maywood Riverfront Park by end of March 2006. Pemaco site areas south of 59th Place will be left unfinished for treatment building construction. Following construction, City will complete park south of 59th Place.
- Installation of rest of the groundwater/soil treatment system (outside the ERH source area) – April/May
- High-Vacuum Dual-Phase Extraction (HVDPE)/Vac-Enhanced System Testing – June/July
- ERH system installation complete – June/July
- ERH startup – August/Sept.

Summary of the Chosen Cleanup for Pemaco Described in the ROD

- For the surface and near-surface soils, a soil cover and revegetation;
- For the upper vadose soils and perched groundwater, high-vacuum dual-phase extraction [HVDPE] (This process will use ultraviolet oxidation [UV Ox] and granular activated carbon [GAC] for water treatment, and flameless thermal oxidation [FTO] and GAC for treatment of vapors); and
- For the lower vadose soils and exposition groundwater, electrical resistance heating [ERH] with vapor extraction [VE], vacuum-enhanced groundwater extraction, groundwater pump and treat [Groundwater P&T] and monitored natural attenuation (MNA). (This process will use UV Ox and GAC for water treatment, and FTO and GAC for treatment of vapors.)

EPA added the following safety measures based on community concerns:

- EPA will conduct indoor air sampling and additional vapor monitoring on Walker Avenue and 59th Street during FTO operations;
- EPA will design the FTO unit so that a heat exchanger and a vapor-phase GAC adsorption unit will be installed to the post-exhaust side of the FTO unit to reduce the possibility of dioxin being released to the environment; and
- Thorough emission monitoring of the FTO unit will be performed and vapor samples will be tested for dioxins and furans along with other analytes.

Concerns Raised by Community Members During Recent Construction Work:

Dust during recent and future construction:

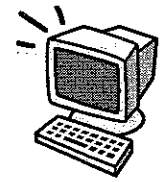
- There were some concerns expressed by the community regarding dusty conditions during the recent construction activities. These activities included both work done by the City of Maywood and installation of remedial and monitoring systems for the Pemaco and WW Henry sites. At times, these activities were occurring simultaneously and involved earth moving, trenching and drilling.
- We monitored both upwind and downwind air-borne dust levels and found that they did not exceed health & safety criteria set for the site. Nonetheless, dust suppression methods were used on a daily basis. These methods included use of water to wet down exposed soil areas.
- Future construction activities will likely also generate some dust, but less so than the extensive surface grading and trenching operations of recent construction. Future remedial system construction activities will consist primarily of drilling operations and surface pipe installation in the ERH area and construction of the treatment building. Dust emissions will again be monitored and proper control measures used to suppress dust.
- It should be noted that Maywood River Park construction activities could also generate dust (see above schedule).
  - Recognizing community concerns, U.S. EPA will perform pre-remedial air quality sampling. This sampling will include installation of soil vapor wells along 59th Place and Walker Avenue (near people's homes, locations not yet decided). These wells will be sampled before remedial systems are turned on. Additionally, outdoor and indoor air quality samples will be collected from locations near the Pemaco site (locations to be selected). These samples will be tested for the same contaminants that are listed in the ROD as chemicals of concern (COCs).
  - Perimeter air monitoring and soil vapor monitoring will take place on at least a weekly basis during operation of the ERH and during startup of the soil/groundwater treatment system.
  - After the ERH system is turned off, perimeter and soil vapor monitoring will take place less frequently but at least once a month.
  - More information will be forthcoming as the remedial operations air quality monitoring program is developed.
- All air emissions will meet South Coast Air Quality Management District requirements.

Opportunities for Community Participation

U.S. EPA always encourages members of the community to participate in community meetings and ask questions. We welcome telephone calls and will try to accommodate requests for individual or group meetings. A draft design plan for the ERH system has been sent to community representatives for review and comment. U.S. EPA will continue to hold community gatherings where people can drop in and get additional information and ask questions.

For More Information

You can look at U.S. EPA's website at http://yosemite.epa.gov/r9/sfund/techdoc.nsf and choose Pemaco. For other site information go to: http://www.epa.gov/region9/waste/sfund/superfundsites.html and go to Site Overviews or visit www.epaosc.gov/pemaco



Also, there is an information repository at The Cesar Chavez Public Library at 4323 E. Slauson Avenue, Maywood, CA 90270, (323) 771-8600.

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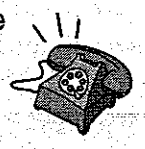
Who to contact at U.S. EPA

Alhelí Baños
Community Involvement Coordinator
banos.alheli@epa.gov
(213) 244-1808, or toll free
(800) 231-3075



Rose Marie Caraway
Remedial Project Manager
caraway.rosemarie@epa.gov
(415) 972-3158, or toll free
(800) 231-3075

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